

**From:** Paul Murray  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 11:19pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft settlement

I would like to comment on the proposed antitrust settlement with Microsoft. In two words, it stinks.

From what I have read, it is riddled with loopholes for Microsoft to exploit -- and their past behavior has demonstrated that if there is a loophole, they will use it.

An example of this is that I have read the settlement applies only to personal computers, which are defined as having keyboards. No keyboard, the settlement doesn't apply. So MS can do whatever they want with their X-box game player, and a tablet PC that reads the user's handwriting. When voice recognition systems are perfected, they can do whatever they want with that, as well.

Here's an article from a respected industry news organization that discusses some of the potential loopholes:  
<http://news.com.com/2100-1001-275375.html?legacy=cnet>

The "concessions" that MS has made are meaningless, and they are paying no penalty for their \*crimes\*, as noted by respected columnist Dan Gillmor:  
<http://web.siliconvalley.com/content/sv/2001/11/02/opinion/dgillmor/weblog/index.htm>

Columnist Bob Lewis of InfoWorld wonders why MS gets to negotiate as an equal party when they have been convicted of criminal behavior:  
<http://www.infoworld.com/articles/op/xml/02/01/07/020107opsurvival.xml>

I also think it is shameful that the Bush Administration is proposing such a weak settlement to a case that required several years and many millions of dollars to win.

I believe that the settlement proposed by the nine holdout states is a more appropriate resolution.

Sincerely,

Paul Murray  
9961 Pierson  
Detroit, MI 48228

---

Paul Murray  
<http://www.paulmurray.net>

